

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,644,840 (herein referred to as "Connor"). Applicants respectfully assert that claim 11 is allowable over Connor. All of Applicants previous arguments regarding Connor and claim 11 still apply. However, to place this patent application in condition for allowance, Applicants have canceled claim 11.

Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,175,507 (herein referred to as "Kawai"). Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1 and 10 are allowable over Kawai. However, to place this patent application in condition for allowance, Applicants have rewritten claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 2. Applicants note that the Examiner stated in the most recent Office Action that claim 2 was allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus claims 1-8 and 10 should now be allowable.

The Examiner stated in the most recent Office Action that claim 9 was allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 9 is allowable over Kawai in view of Guido. To place this patent application in condition for allowance, Applicants have rewritten claim 9 to include the limitations of claim 1. Thus claim 9 should now be allowable.

Applicants are submitting new claims 12-18 which are method claims. Independent claim 12 includes functionality from original claims 1 and 2, and thus Applicants believe independent claim 12 and dependent claims 13-18 are allowable.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully solicited. Please contact me if there are any issues regarding this communication or the current Application.


If Applicant has overlooked any additional fees, or if any overpayment has been made,
the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit or debit Deposit Account 503079.

Respectfully submitted,

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